

**Syllabus**  
**EPP 575 RNASeq Data Analysis Short Course, Winter 2022**  
**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

**Course sections:** EPP 575  
**Meeting Time:** January 13-14 and 18-21, 2022  
9am - 11:30am, PBB 113  
**Meeting Place:** Plant Biotechnology Building, Room 113  
**Course Credit Hours:** 1  
**Course website:**  
[https://github.com/statonlab/EPP 575 RNASeq Workshop/wiki](https://github.com/statonlab/EPP_575_RNASeq_Workshop/wiki)

**Primary Instructors:**

Matt Huff, Research Associate  
Meg Staton, Associate Professor

Email: [mlhuff10@utk.edu](mailto:mlhuff10@utk.edu) Office: PBB 153  
Email: [mstaton1@utk.edu](mailto:mstaton1@utk.edu) Office: PBB 154

**Co-Instructors:**

Trinity Hamm, EPP PhD Student  
Ryan Kuster, EPP PhD Student  
Tara Rickman, Research Associate  
Lav Yadav, Postdoctoral Scholar

Email: [t Hamm1@vols.utk.edu](mailto:t Hamm1@vols.utk.edu)  
Email: [rkuster@utk.edu](mailto:rkuster@utk.edu)  
Email: [trickman@vols.utk.edu](mailto:trickman@vols.utk.edu)  
Email [lyadav@utk.edu](mailto:lyadav@utk.edu)

*Office hours are daily 1:30pm-2:30pm or can be scheduled by email.*

*The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter or amend this syllabus as necessary. Students will be notified by email of any such changes.*

**I. Course Description**

This one-credit course will cover the basics of using a command line interface on UT's Linux-based computational resources to analyze RNASeq data. Basic steps such as quality assessment, read mapping and differential gene expression statistical analysis will be covered. This class meets in PBB 113.

**II. Value Proposition**

The discipline of bioinformatics is one of the most effective and promising tools for generating biological research discoveries, but it requires robust training in order to apply the principles correctly. This course will provide students with an introduction to key bioinformatic skills, including familiarity with UNIX command line, the R programming language and software for processing large transcriptome (RNA) datasets.

**III. Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

- A. Students will be able to apply basic bioinformatic theory and tools to analyze transcriptome datasets
- B. Students will be able to effectively communicate and critically assess the application of bioinformatic tools to transcriptome data
- C. Students will have a basic competence in the UNIX shell and usage of bioinformatic tools

from the command line

#### **IV. Learning Environment**

Class meets on the days listed from 9:00am to 11:30am in PBB 113. Classes will have a combination of lectures, guided computer labs, and short group/class discussions. As we have many instructors who will be in the classroom throughout the course, please utilize them to get help if you get lost during a lab. I also like to hear any and all questions, during lectures or afterward. While there is no homework for the class, students should complete any unfinished labs after the class is over and plan to attend office hours if they are falling behind or confused about any class material.

A classroom is a collaborative environment, and both the instructor and the students have a shared responsibility to ensure a successful learning experience.

**Student's responsibility:** Students should be prepared for all classes, be respectful of others, actively contribute to the learning activities in class and abide by the [UT Honor Code](#).

**Instructor's responsibility:** All instructors will be prepared for all classes, evaluate learners fairly and equally, be respectful of all students, create and facilitate meaningful learning activities and follow University codes of conduct.

#### **V. Course Communication**

Outside of class and the website, the instructors will utilize email to communicate course information, such as changes to the syllabus, answering questions relevant to all students, etc. All students are responsible for checking their university email accounts and reading all emails regarding the class.

Students are welcome to drop in for office hours (1:30-2:30 after class) or email to schedule an appointment.

#### **VI. Texts/Resources/Materials**

The course website will be used to distribute reading materials, links to references, lecture slides, and laboratory exercises. There is not a required textbook to purchase.

#### **VII. Required Equipment**

Students are required to bring their own laptops (and power cord if needed) to class.

#### **VIII. Course Evaluation**

The final grade for each student will be on an A-F scale:

A	93-100 points
B+	88-92 points
B	80-87 points
C+	77-79
C	70-76
F	below 70

Points will be accrued from three assignments, with the following weight:

- Daily email of output files from lab (i.e. command line) exercises (10 points per day, up to 60 points total for class)
- Journal article review and summary (up to 40 points)

Grading details:

**Output files** - At the end of each day, you will need to send a file via email to mlhuff10@utk.edu to get credit for completing the lab exercises. That file will be specified through the course website.

**Journal Article Writing Assignment** – Each student will select a peer-reviewed journal article about RNASeq analysis in their field and write a two page summary and critical review of the experimental design and analysis methods, due the following **Tuesday, January 25th**.

**Email to mstaton1@utk.edu..** The document should cover the following topics:

- What is the study's hypothesis? (8 points)
- Why was RNASeq selected as an experimental method? (ie how does it relate to the biology of the hypothesis?) Is this technology appropriate for addressing the hypothesis? (8 points)
- What is the experimental design? Is it statistically robust? What software was used? (8 points)
- What do you think are the strengths of the paper (8 points)
- What do you think are the weaknesses of the paper? (8 points)

## **IX. Attendance**

Presence during lecture and lab is beneficial for students to develop an understanding of the material presented in the class. Absences due to special circumstances should be discussed with the instructor, preferably prior to the absence, via email or in person. Lectures and labs will be recorded and can be viewed remotely.

## **X. How to Be Successful in This Course**

- Follow along with the exercises during the class period. The concepts and practical exercises build on the material covered in prior lessons, so it is essential to keep up with the subject matter.
- Get help early with problems. The instructors are there to help and want you to be successful. If something is not making sense or you are unable to complete a lab exercise, seek help immediately through email and/or in-person meetings. This will prevent you from falling behind during this fast-paced class.
- Select a journal article that is of a proper scope for the writing assignment and work on it before the class ends. The scope of the article methodology should primarily be RNASeq. If you select an article regarding RNASeq of a biological system you are familiar with, this may help with answering the questions about the hypothesis and interpretation. **If you aren't sure, you can email the article to the instructor to see if it is of proper scope.**

## **XI. Course Feedback**

A final course evaluation will be provided to each student at the end of the course. Each student will receive an email toward the end of the semester providing a link to the survey. **I value student feedback, and I utilize it to improve the course.**

## **Course Schedule**

The course schedule is posted on the course website, provided above.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Academic Integrity:**

“An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

### **University Civility Statement:**

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus:

<http://civility.utk.edu/>.

### **Disability Services:**

“Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Student Disability Services in Dunford Hall, at 865-974-6087, or by video relay at, 865-622-6566, to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations.

### **Your Role in Improving Teaching and Learning Through Course Assessment:**

At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester, you may be requested to assess aspects of this course either during class or at the completion of the class. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.

## **Key Campus Resources for Students:**

- [Center for Career Development](#) (Career counseling and resources; HIRE-A-VOL job search system)
- [Course Catalogs](#) (Listing of academic programs, courses, and policies)
- [Hilltopics](#) (Campus and academic policies, procedures and standards of conduct)
- [OIT HelpDesk](#) **(865)** 974-9900
- [Schedule of Classes/Timetable](#)
- [Student Health Center](#) (visit the site for a list of services)
- [Student Success Center](#) (Academic support resources)

- [Undergraduate Academic Advising](#) (Advising resources, course requirements, and major guides)
- [University Libraries](#) (Access to library resources, databases, course reserves, and services)